

WASHINGTON, DC -- On the eve of World AIDS Day, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez participated in the City of Los Angeles' HIV Testing Initiative today. The initiative aims to increase HIV testing levels and access to care throughout Los Angeles.

"The well-known environmental adage 'think globally, act locally' applies to the struggle against HIV and AIDS. If we're going to defeat the AIDS crisis facing the world, we need to start here at home by doing our part," Congresswoman Sánchez said. "I'm proud to join fellow community leaders in taking the HIV test, and I encourage others to do the same."

The initiative, led by the City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator's Office (ACO), will increase testing in communities with high demand for testing, while reaching many who are underserved by current testing systems, particularly in communities of color. The Initiative will increase testing at community events in high prevalence neighborhoods; in colleges, universities, and high schools; and at private physicians groups, managed care providers, public clinics, and hospital systems.

"In recent years, some Americans have become complacent about HIV, and rates of infection have been on the rise, particularly in minority communities," Congresswoman Sánchez said. "I urge people to remember that the best way to protect yourself, your partner, and your family is by knowing your status and practicing safer sex—always."

Congresswoman Sánchez has been a strong supporter of HIV and AIDS awareness and public health measures. She has been particularly proud to support the work of the Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project, which serves much of southeastern Los Angeles County, including the Congresswoman's district.